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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2387
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 8855
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9187
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5737
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3773
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2872
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0953
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAWJL/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS COLOMBO 000110

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TAGS: [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [KCRM](#) [CE](#)
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA TO CONSIDER US REQUEST ON APG VOTE

REF: STATE 06134

Econchief delivered reftel points on January 17 to Dr. Rohan Perera, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Perera said he fully understood the human rights concerns but, given the current global situation, and Burma's potential role in various arms and drug smuggling activities, he thought it could be better to have them ?inside rather than out.? Econchief noted that the US agreed with this assessment and saw value in Burma's participation, but had made a decision not to support membership. Perera appreciated the clarification and promised to take it up in discussions with the Central Bank, which is spearheading the Anti-Money Laundering effort in Sri Lanka. On a related note, Perera said debate had begun in parliament on the long-awaited Anti-Money Laundering legislation. He expected an APG team to visit Sri Lanka in later this year to discuss Sri Lanka's progress on this front.

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